

completely justified to educate his retirement person, I believe, or I'm just using that as an example. I shouldn't even mention names, but there was certainly nothing wrong, and yet, I think Senator Haberman used that money. Well, he would be literally penalized for that purpose, and we also can use campaign money if we go to a conference to educate ourself for serving here. And I kind of have a real problem with that, because someone that, you know, it's the senators that are really active and really maybe have been here a few years are usually the ones that take advantage or do that. And it's certainly for education for the good of serving or being a better senator. So I do have a concern in that area.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Does anyone else wish to address the amendment? Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam Chairperson, I would just like to say in continuation of my earlier remarks that I believe, once again, this is a well-intentioned bill, Senator Lindsay, one which is easy to understand from a point of popular appeal. But I think that Senator Nelson just raised an excellent point, that is, the utilization of campaign funds by the candidate for purposes for which they might otherwise legitimately charge the taxpayer. And I want to say also that frequently the new legislators may not think that's much of a problem because in your first year or two down here, you do not have that many opportunities. But the longer you are here, and the more responsibility that you accept, and which you are assigned to, the more demands there will be upon your time, and the more need there will be, for example, to fly to distances...to meetings that are distances away. I always think about those...those individuals who live in western Nebraska, and who have to travel back and forth. And we like to think that they need to travel by automobile because it is cheap. But the facts are that it is very time consuming and makes it doubly expensive, or triply expensive for the senators from western Nebraska to participate as senators. And I've always been a strong advocate of those individuals being allowed to use campaign funds or state funds to shorten the amount of time that's involved in their contribution to the state. I also want to point out that there are many times when senators are invited to participate in conferences outside of this state with other states and in other types of activities. Low-level waste, I've traveled to many of those meetings, and water meetings around the country, that were paid for by campaign funds and sometimes by direct contributions. I would